

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air Quality

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

Southcentral Alaska Advisory #2016-F5

Friday, July 22, 2016

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: The Copper River Basin of Eastern Southcentral Alaska. The Kennicott Valley and Chitna areas impacted include Glennallen, McCarthy and Kenny Lake.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Friday, July 22, 2016 4:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Friday, July 22, 2016 4:00 PM to Monday, July 25, 2016 12:00 PM

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Monday, July 25, 2016 11:00 AM

ADVISORY: Smoke from nearby wildfires is impacting air quality in Eastern Southcentral Alaska in the Kennicott Valley and Chitna areas, including Glennallen, McCarthy, and Kenny Lake. Air Quality will vary between **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS** to **UNHEALTHY** depending on wind flow and proximity to the fire. With steady rain anticipated across the region, air quality should slowly improve.

Be aware that areas immediately downwind of any fire will experience **HAZARDOUS** levels of smoke. Generally, worse conditions occur overnight and during the early morning hours, as the atmosphere cools and brings smoke to the surface. During the day, surface heating will mix smoke and carry it upwards, temporarily improving air quality.

SMOKE AND PUBLIC IMPACT: This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for portions of Eastern Southcentral Alaska. Smoke intensity will vary depending on precise location and local wind flow patterns. Smoke concentrations will be such that they could impact public health at times. It is advised that travelers check local weather as smoke conditions may vary considerably from one locality to the next. The most recent weather observations may be found on National Weather Service's homepage at <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>.

In smoke impacted areas, DEC advises people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion. See the table below for more guidance on the Air Quality Index categories and Cautionary Statements.

The following table contains the cautionary statements for the Air Quality for Particle Pollution.

Air Quality Category	Cautionary Statements
Good	None
Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.
Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.

When air quality data are unavailable, the following **Air Quality Smoke Reference Guide** may be used to estimate air quality levels and potential health impacts:

Visibility	Air Quality
10+ miles	Good
6 - 9 miles	Moderate
3 - 5 miles	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
1.5 - 2.5 miles	Unhealthy
0.9 - 1.4 miles	Very Unhealthy
0.8 miles or less	Hazardous

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For information on this advisory, contact Brehan Kohl with the Division of Air Quality at 907-269-3010.